

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, I was unavoidably detained due to the birth of my daughter, thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 623, 624, and 625. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF FREMONT, CALIFORNIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Fremont, California's 50th anniversary. Fremont is the largest city in the 13th Congressional District. When Fremont incorporated in 1956, it had a population of approximately 22,000 residents. Today, Fremont residents number over 210,000, nearly 10 times the population of 50 years ago.

The Ohlone people and their ancestors had occupied Fremont for thousands of years when Spanish priests arrived from Mexico and founded Mission San Jose in 1797. After Mexico won independence from Spain in the early 1800s, an appointed administrator divided the mission lands into four large tracts known as Rancho del Agua Caliente, Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda, Rancho Portero de los Cerritos and Mission San Jose.

John C. Fremont arrived in the 1840s to map a trail through Mission Pass. California's admission to the United States and the Gold Rush stimulated further migration to the area, attracting people from all parts of the world. By 1853, the communities of Mission San Jose, Centerville, Niles, Irvington and Warm Springs had formed themselves into Washington Township. The City of Fremont officially came into existence on January 23, 1956, when citizens of these communities voted to incorporate their town to form a single city.

Fremont is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse cities in the United States. Over 137 languages are spoken; its residents come from all 50 states within the United States as well as 155 countries throughout the world.

The celebration of Fremont's 50th anniversary promises to be as unique as Fremont itself. Celebrate Fremont's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Fremont Community, now and for generations to come by serving all segments of the community by promoting the vitality of nonprofit organizations, fostering volunteerism and serving as a vital resource that promotes and enhances community activities including but not limited to those civic, cultural, and educational activities that celebrate the past, present and future of Fremont.

I join the City of Fremont's civic leaders and its residents in celebrating Fremont's 50th anniversary. The motto for the celebration is "creating a legacy for tomorrow by cherishing our past and connecting with our present."

This celebration offers the city an historic opportunity to celebrate its past, while uniting its diverse community and historic districts around a shared vision for the future. Happy Birthday Fremont and best wishes for continued success as a model city.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS HOUSING FAIRNESS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduce legislation that allows veterans to use their guaranteed VA loans to purchase co-operative housing units. FHA and other government agencies already have programs to give loans for co-operative residential units, and most banks accept co-operative shares as collateral. The Department of Veterans Affairs should do the same. For many veterans who live in communities where co-operative housing is common or where the cost of houses and condominiums can be high, a co-operative residential unit is an affordable alternative.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WATERTOWN, TENNESSEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of Watertown, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body.

The community in Wilson County was originally known as Three Forks, but the town's Postmaster, Wilson L. Waters, changed the name to Watertown. Eventually, the town's name changed one final time to Watertown. The town was incorporated in 1905 as a result of a devastating fire in 1903. Today, Watertown's residents enjoy a quality of life that is second to none.

Throughout history, Watertown has been home to several thriving businesses. Williams Pin Mill put the community on the map, as it was the largest manufacturer of threaded insulator rods in the world. Another notable business is the Watertown Bed and Breakfast, the only structure that survived the numerous fires, including the great fire of 1903, that ripped through Watertown during its adolescent years.

The citizens of Watertown embrace their community, and that spirit has made it the flourishing town it is today. The Watertown Jazz Festival, a popular musical event held in July, draws crowds from hundreds of miles away. Another famous attribute is Watertown's Excursion Train. These passenger trains, operated by Tennessee Central Railway Museum, take riders on a scenic tour of Middle Tennessee.

I congratulate Watertown on this anniversary, and I hope the next 100 years are as prosperous and progressive as the first 100 years.

HONORING MR. J.W. ANDREWS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BEING HONORED WITH "J.W. ANDREWS ROAD"

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. J.W. Andrews of Preswick, Alabama, on the occasion of his being honored by his community with the naming of the "J.W. Andrews Road" in Jackson, Alabama.

Mr. Andrews was born on August 30, 1919, and he has dedicated much of his life to the service of Clarke county. He married the former Ida B. Tiggs, and they had four children. He is the owner of Andrews Funeral Home in Jackson, Alabama; a business in which he remains active to this day.

In 1978, Mr. Andrews became president of the Clarke County Voter's League. In this position, he ensured African Americans were able to serve as deputy registrars with the Clarke County Board of Registrars.

In 1981, Mr. Andrews was recognized by then Alabama Governor Fob James who praised him for his support in the successful passage of a responsible education budget.

Mr. Andrews was also the first African American to serve on the Clarke County Board of Education, a capacity in which he served for two years.

In 1985, Mr. Andrews became the first of two African Americans to ever be elected to the Jackson City Council. He served on the city council for over 14 years in district one.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating J.W. Andrews for both the great success he has enjoyed in his life and his outstanding representation of the Clarke County, Alabama. I know his wife Ida, his children, many friends, and colleagues are also proud of him, and I wish Mr. Andrews and his entire family much health and success in the years ahead.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT OF CROATIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter this letter into the RECORD. The letter focuses on the importance of the U.S. State Department's support of Croatia's membership into NATO.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CROATIAN AMERICANS (NFCA),
Washington, DC, Nov. 3, 2005.

Re Resolution on The Republic of Croatia and NATO Membership.

The Hon. ELTON GALLEGLY,
Chairman, Europe and Emerging Threats Subcommittee, International Relations Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the National Federation of Croatian Americans (NFCA), I want to commend and thank you for the courageous leadership you have shown by introducing H. Res. 529. The NFCA was pleased to contribute to the Resolution's